

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 1-12 and 14-23 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a system for analyzing samples comprising a portable analysis unit comprising a sample inlet, an analyzer for determining a characteristic of a sample and providing data about the characteristic, a reagent supply reservoir, a collection reservoir for waste comprising used reagent and analyzed sample. The system further comprises a reagent inlet for providing reagent to the supply reservoir, a waste outlet for removing waste from the collection reservoir, a supply conduit from the reagent supply reservoir to the analyzer, and a waste conduit from the analyzer to the collection reservoir. The system further comprises an analysis unit power source for providing power to the analyzer, a data output element for outputting data generated by the analyzer and a pressure source for moving reagent and waste. The system further comprises a base unit adapted for connection to the analyzer unit for providing reagent to the analysis unit and receiving waste from the collection reservoir. The base unit comprises a reagent storage reservoir, a waste storage reservoir, a waste inlet for connection to the waste outlet of the analysis unit for receiving waste from the analysis unit and a reagent outlet for providing reagent from the reagent storage reservoir to the reagent inlet of the analysis unit. The base unit and the analysis unit are adapted to be disposed in: a disconnected configuration wherein the analysis unit is separate from the base unit or a connected configuration wherein the reagent outlet is connected to the reagent inlet and the waste inlet is connected to the waste outlet and the analysis

Art Unit: 1797

unit is capable of analyzing a sample while in the disconnected configuration and the analysis unit power source comprises a rechargeable battery and the base unit further comprises a battery charger connectable to the analysis unit power source.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JYOTI NAGPAUL whose telephone number is (571)272-1273. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday (10:00-7:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JN

/Jill Warden/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1797